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Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 IO-13 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06

COME-00 EB-07 LAB-04 SIL-01 OC-06 CCO-00 SAJ-01 SAM-01

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R 101359Z AUG 76
FM AMEMBASSY NICOSIA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4111
INFO AMEMBASSY ANKARA
AMEMBASSY ATHENS
AMEMBASSY BONN
DIA WASH DC
AMEMBASSY LONDON
USMISSION NATO BRUSSELS
AMEMBASSY PARIS
USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GER
USDOCOSOUTH NAPLES IT
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

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USCINCEUR FOR POLAD
USDOCOSOUTH FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PFOR, ELAB, CY
SUBJ: RASH OF MINOR STRIKES IN THE NORTH

1. DURING PAST WEEK THERE HAS BEEN RASH OF WORK STOPPAGES AND WARNING STRIKES BY AVRIOUS STATE EMPLOYEES TO PROTEST DISMISSALS OF SEVERAL HUNDRED CONSTRUCTION WORKERS EMPLOYED ON TURK CYPRIOT PUBLIC WORKS PROJECTS. "TFSC" OFFICIALS CLAIM THAT 280 WORKERS HAVE BEEN LAID OFF DUE TO COMPLETION OF PROJECTS THEY HAD BEEN WORKING ON, BUT UNION OFFICIALS PUT THE FIGURE AT
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500 AND SAY AN ADDITIONAL 500 ARE TO BE LAID OFF SHORTLY. STRIKES HAVE BEEN ORGANIZED BY TURK-SEN LABOR FEDERATION AND

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HAVE INVOLVED MEMBERS OF THE CONSTRUCTION, ROAD, TELEPHONE, AGRICULTURE, ADMINISTRATION WORKERS UNIONS.

2. FIRST SYMPATH STRIKE TOOK PLACE AUGUST 5 IN FAMAGUSTA, LASTED THREE HOURS, AND REPORTEDLY INVOLVED 700-1000 WORKERS. SUBSEQUENTLY, 800 STATE WORKERS STAGED THREE-HOUR WORK STOPPAGE IN MORPHOU ON AUGUST 7; 1,500 WORKERS STRUCK FOR THREE HOURS IN NICOSIA ON AUGUST 9, TEMPORARILY SUSPENDING ERCAN AIRPORT AND OTHER SERVICES; AND 700 WORKERS EMPLOYED BY "TFSC" STRUCK IN KYRENIA ON AUGUST 10. PRESS REPORTS INDICATE THAT 24 - HOUR STRIKE INVOLVING ALL CIVIL SERVANTS AND STATE WORKERS IS BEING ORGANIZED FOR AUGUST 13.

3. COMMENT: A. LAYOFFS OF WORKERS EMPLOYED IN PUBLIC WORKS PROJECTS ARE IN PART A REFLECTION OF PROGRESS MADE IN BUILDING INFRASTRUCTURE IN THE NORTH AND OF CHANGING REQUIREMENTS FOR LABOR. ROAD CONSTRUCTION PROJECTS, PARTICULARLY THE FAMAGUSTA-MORPHOU ROAD CONSTRUCTION PROJECT, ARE NEARING COMPLETION; ERCAN AIRPORT RUNWAY EXTSNSION IS LARGELY COMPLETED (LIGHTING AND OTHER DETAILS REMAIN); AUTOMATIC TELEPHONE SYSTEM INSTALLATION WAS FINISHED IN PARIL; AND PUBLIC WORKS PROGRAM TO REPAIR AND MAKE HABITABLE ABANDONED GREEK HOUSING IS BEING PHASED OUT IN FAVOR OF CREDITS TO INDIVIDUAL OCCUPANTS TO REPAIR HOMES OR CONTRACT OUT REPAIRS ON THEIR OWN. B. STRONG REACTION ON PART OF UNIONS TO LAYOFFS SEEMS TO HAVE CAUGHT TURK CYPRIOT AUTHORITIES SOMEWHAT OFF-BALANCE. LATTER ARE BEING CRITICIZED NOT FOR THE DISMISSALS PER SE BUT FOR NOT HAVING NEW PUBLIC WORKS PROJECTS READY TO BEGIN, AND ARE UNDER CONSIDERABLE PRESSURE TO KEEP THESE LAID-OFF WORKERS ON THE PUBLIC PAYROLL, DESPITE THE "TFSC"'S ALREADY DIFFICULT FINANCIAL CIRCUMSTANCES.
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